<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend claims 8 and 15 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for receiving and storing voice mail messages, the method comprising:

receiving, at a first server, an incoming call;

determining whether the call is to be transferred to voice mail; and

responsive to determining that the call is to be transferred to voice mail:

determining the call's voice mail extension;

determining a second server, the second server being the voice mail extension's

home server;

determining whether the second server is a remote server; and

responsive to determining that the second server is a remote server:

determining whether the second server is available; and

responsive to determining that the second server is not available, storing

the voice mail message in the first server.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising;

responsive to determining that the call is not to be transferred to voice mail, handling the

call normally.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to determining that the second server is not a remote server, storing the voice

mail message in the first server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

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responsive to determining that the second server is available, sending the voice mail

message to the second server.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing voice mail messages, the method
comprising:

determining, at a first server, whether a second server is available; and

responsive to determining that the second server is available:

retrieving a voice mail message from the first server; and

sending the voice mail message to the second server.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

querying a configuration module for a location of the second server.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

responsive to determining that the second server is available:

receiving, by the second server, the voice mail message; and

storing, by the second server, the voice mail message.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail
messages, the apparatus comprising:

a call status module, configured to determine whether a call should be transferred to

voice mail;

a call transfer module, configured to determine a call's voice mail extension and a server

on which the voice mail extension resides, wherein the server is one of a plurality

of servers, and wherein ~~on which~~ voice mail extensions reside on each server of

the plurality of servers; and

a voice mail migration module, configured to send a voice mail message to a remote server.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:

the call transfer module is further configured to determine whether the server on which the voice mail extension resides is a remote server.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a storage interface module, configured to allow modules to store and retrieve data.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

an audio encoding/decoding module, configured to convert audio voice mail messages to a data format suitable for storage and to convert voice mail messages from this storage data format to an audio format.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a telephony application programming interface module, configured to allow modules access to data on a switch.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a configuration module, configured to provide information about remote servers.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

an extension library module, configured to provide common functions that are used by modules.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the system comprising:

a first apparatus for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the first apparatus comprising:

a first call status module, configured to determine whether a first call should be transferred to voice mail;

a first call transfer module, configured to determine a first call's voice mail extension and a first server on which the first voice mail extension resides, wherein the first server is one of a plurality of servers, and wherein ~~on which~~ voice mail extensions reside on each server of the plurality of servers; and

a first voice mail migration module, configured to send a first voice mail message to a first remote server; and

a second apparatus for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the second apparatus comprising:

a second call status module, configured to determine whether a second call should be transferred to voice mail;

a second call transfer module, configured to determine a second call's voice mail extension and a second server on which the second voice mail extension resides, wherein the second server is one of a plurality of servers, and wherein ~~on which~~ voice mail extensions reside on each server of the plurality of servers; and

a second voice mail migration module, configured to send a second voice mail

message to a second remote server;

wherein the first apparatus and the second apparatus are coupled to each other.